

September 21, 2020

TO: Walpole Zoning Board of Appeals

FROM: Bill Hamilton

Re: 55 SS LLC 51-53-55 Summer ST

In my opinion the ZBA should not approve this application, because this mega project is within a mile of the only MWRA Sludge Dump in Massachusetts approved by DEP. Such a project can tip our Town into receivership when the Sludge Dump starts receiving Sludge, because collecting taxes within a mile of the Sludge Dump stops as it has in other states. The Towns Tax Levy and fixed cost stay the same. When Chelsea was unable to collect the taxes from abandoned properties it went into receivership. I was a lecturer at BU and with the late James Fitzgerald from Wall St. we were the two Walpole delegates to the Democratic convention that voted to ensure Doctor John Silber received the 15% vote placing him on the Democratic Primary Ballot for Governor. He explained that Chelsea had moved the retirement system to the State System as Boston had done. This saved the pensions of Chelsea's retirees and the vested pensions of the employees. He urged me to move Walpole to the State Retirement System, but I couldn't get Walpole to go to the State System, therefore, if this Mega Project is approved our employees retired and vested are at risk of losing their hard earned pensions. Murphy's Law "if it can happen it will happen." It is not a question of if Sludge will come to the Sludge Dump, but when. I have a one-page UPI document to read into the record of this hearing.

William T. Hamilton RTM 5

- * PLAN should show 1 mile from Sodge Site
- * Need Zone II study
- * 25 year deal expires about 17 June 2019
- * 30 year is up about 17 June 2024

UPI Archives June 17, 1993

MWRA offers to 'dump' Walpole dump; scale back project

BOSTON -- The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority tentatively offered to scrap its plans to dump sludge from the Boston Harbor cleanup in the town of Walpole, providing opponents drop their court fight to stop the project.

It is also asking for federal court permission to cut back the project in some areas to save ratepayers \$200 on their yearly bills by 1999, the authority said Wednesday.

Under the sludge-dump offer, the MWRA promised to seek a 25-year contract with one of four out-of-state disposal firms to get rid of the sludge.

In return, the town would drop all lawsuits challenging the landfill siting process and issue local permits to the MWRA to operate the Walpole landfill in the event of an emergency.

The MWRA said the permits are necessary because the federal court order governing the multi-billion dollar cleanup project requires the agency to have an in-state backup disposal site in case it cannot process or market fertilizer from the sludge.

U.S. District Judge David Mazzone, who is overseeing the court-ordered harbor cleanup, must still approve the MWRA offer.

Gov. William Weld promised during the 1990 gubernatorial campaign to fight the Walpole landfill project, and just last week said he still opposed the site, even though it was approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Local residents claim the landfill, to be located in a marshy area between the Walpole and Norfolk state prisons, would create intolerable odors in the area, and could pollute the town's water table.

Many homeowners near the proposed site have been unable to sell their homes because banks refuse to lend mortgages to buyers.

The MWRA is also asking the federal judge overseeing the project for permission to scale back the \$5.7 billion cleanup project to save ratepayers about \$200 a year by 1999.

The agency, faced with a ratepayer revolt, is suggesting that the number of sewage settling tanks and the size of the storm-water runoff overflow system be reduced.

Officials said more imaginative and less expensive solutions might achieve the same results.

Along with some other changes, the cutbacks reportedly could reduce ratepayer bills from \$1,200 down to \$1,000 by 1999. Currently, Boston-area customers pay about \$545 a year in water and sewage costs.

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